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LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the violations of Iraqi national airspace committed by United States aircraft in order to cause provocation and break the sound barrier continued over the period 11-20 February 1995.

11 February 1995

(a) Northern region: 13 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 86 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Basra, Samawah, Amarah, Salman and Ushbayjah.

On 11 February 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, one at 1104 hours and the other at 1423 hours. They left in the direction of Kuwait at 1226 and 1530 hours respectively.

At 1305 hours on 11 February 1995, hostile aircraft flying at low altitudes broke the sound barrier over the complex belonging to the State Enterprise for the Petrochemical Industries in Basra Governorate. Physical damage was caused by the strong shock waves produced.

At 1230 hours on 11 February 1995, hostile aircraft dropped 10 heat flares in the Ninawa Governorate.

12 February 1995

Southern region: 73 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Amarah, Qurnah, Jalibah and Busayyah.

On 12 February 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, one at 1205 hours and the other at 1430 hours. They left in the direction of Kuwait at 1250 and 1507 hours respectively.

At 2020 hours on 12 February 1995, a hostile aircraft dropped one heat flare on the city of Samawah in Muthanna Governorate.

13 February 1995

(a) Northern region: 19 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Zakho and Ayn Zalah.

(b) Southern region: 72 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Basra, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Qurnah, Busayyah and Artawi.

On 13 February 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, one at 1125 hours and the other at 1350 hours. They left in the direction of Kuwait at 1220 and 1552 hours respectively.

14 February 1995

(a) Northern region: 27 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Dohuk, Irbil, Tall Afar, Zakho, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah.

(b) Southern region: 61 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Jalibah and Chabaish.

On 14 February 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, one at 1155 hours and the other at 1425 hours. They left in the direction of Kuwait at 1235 and 1457 hours respectively.

15 February 1995

(a) Northern region: 9 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah.

(b) Southern region: 56 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basra, Qurnah, Jalibah, Artawi and Busayyah.

At 1125 hours on 15 February 1995, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country. It left in the direction of Kuwait at 1235 hours.

16 February 1995

(a) Northern region: 18 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah.

(b) Southern region: 61 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Basra, Amarah, Samawah, Qal'at Salih, the area to the south of Diwaniyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Salman, Busayyah and Jalibah.

On 16 February 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, one at 1132 hours and the other at 1418 hours. They left in the direction of Kuwait at 1238 and 1500 hours respectively.

At 1647 hours on 16 February 1995, a hostile formation broke the sound barrier over the city of Nasiriyah.

17 February 1995

(a) Northern region: 20 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 70 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Basra, Samawah, Chabaish, Amarah and Khidr.

At 1100 hours on 17 February 1995, aggressor aircraft dropped two heat flares in the Fa'idah area of Ninawa Governorate.

18 February 1995

(a) Northern region: 13 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Tall Afar, Dohuk, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah.

(b) Southern region: 72 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Basra, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Jalibah and Artawi.

On 18 February 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, one at 1130 hours and the

other at 1445 hours. They left in the direction of Kuwait at 1225 and 1552 hours respectively.

19 February 1995

Southern region: 69 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Salman, Samawah, Amarah, Chabaish, Jalibah, Qurnah, Shanafiyah, Artawi and Qal'at Salih.

On 19 February 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, one at 1028 hours and the other at 1440 hours. They left in the direction of Kuwait at 1225 and 1550 hours respectively.

20 February 1995

Southern region: 74 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Basra, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Samawah, Chabaish and Amarah.

On 20 February 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, one at 1105 hours and the other at 1412 hours. They left in the direction of Kuwait at 1320 and 1615 hours respectively.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative